PurjFam Pod:

A comprehensive Review

By Dragonfly Mike

I have spent a total of three weeks testing the Purjfam Pod. I smoked numerous bowls on the system. I used numerous HMDs and a variety of coal sizes and shapes. I stuck to the brand "320" for coals. I "modded" the system to allow for a tray. (This was using a piece of silicone hose as a grommet and placing the tray under that. The silicone hose piece was able to sit flush with the tray, which prevented it from being loose or rotating.)

I used all variants of the intake panels and found that I preferred the 77-hole panel with the larger hole plate. I stuck with this variant for the majority of testing. I did set up an observation experiment with several hookahs and the Pod to compare various aspects of smoking. I will discuss that in a few of the ratings.

On the Purjfam Pod website these six claims were made

Unlike Anything Else -World's first stemless design. Effortless purge from underneath. Three draw settings to chose from.

Can't Flood the Bowl - Enjoy a hard purge. Backflow is stopped by a purge door in the diffuser.

Easy to Wash - The entire structure comes apart in seconds. Stack the POD components after washing to air-dry.

Clean Flavor - Glass and aluminum construction with stainless steel hardware. Minimal exposure to the seal elements guarantee flavor purity.

Integrated Catcher - The POD core has grooves that stop the juice from dripping down. The silicone grommet also has a groove to catch additional juices.

Perfect Seal - Vacuum retention is crucial for density. Each unit is tested to a minimum of 0.65inHg of vacuum.

I have broken down the testing into eight different sections, which I will rate on a scale of 1 to 10. One being the lowest and ten being the highest. The categories are observations and opinions. They are not based on fact. Some of these sections will cover the six claims made on the Purjfam Pod website - www.Purjfam.com.

1.) **Packaging 10/10**

The unboxing experience was fantastic. The box itself is nicely designed. The tear-away strip is an extremely nice touch. Having the unboxing experience emulate how the Pod comes apart is great. The inside of the box looks and feels luxurious. The satin is a nice touch. The instructions are upfront and easy to understand. You cannot miss them when opening the box. The extra parts are not put into small plastic bags but in a nice little cloth bag. Adding in a small cleaning rag that is self-contained was an excellent touch. This is one of the, if not the best, unboxing experiences I have had.

2.) **Aesthetics 8/10**

I like how the Pod looks. It's minimalistic and clean. I like seeing "POD" on the intake door. I want the colors to be brighter. I had to turn up the exposure to really capture the purple. While this does not affect function, the two separate outside pieces do not meet on the Pod. There is a gap, as illustrated in the picture below. I understand not having it be completely seamless, but I would like to see the two outer pieces meet so there is no gap. The picture shown also has had the brightness and exposure turned almost all the way up, as stated before. The purple is a good color; I would still like to see it stand out more. An odd aspect of the Pod is that the glass is on the sides of the hookah while it is covered by something non-transparent. As a result, the inside of the Pod is very dark. I had not really experienced that before. It was a reason I knocked a point off the rating. With the Pod being stemless, which offers such a unique experience, I want to be able to see that clearly.

3.) **Construction 8/10 (which will cover Durability)**

The Pod's inner chamber, glass, and outer chambers are constructed very well. There's little to no risk of breaking the outside parts of this hookah, and it feels good in your hands. While not extremely heavy, it still has a nice weight to it. What I did notice is that removing the intake doors can result in bending them. These small pieces are crucial to this hookah's performance and functionality. Over time, I wonder how well these pieces will hold up. The intake doors bending has already required me to bend them back a bit to get them to fit properly. The purge is a very unique concept. I've only spent a few weeks with this hookah and wonder how it will hold up in the long run. The screws have an odd shape and may not be easily tweaked or cleaned in the future. This didn't change my rating as it's conjecture. The bowl port and grommet are odd. I was concerned about this; however, a small piece of silicone hose cut to fit the bowl port fits very well. This allowed me to add a tray and use any bowl (and an added molasses catcher) I want. With that said, one of the six things mentioned on the website was an **"Integrated Catcher."** It works fine for phunnel bowls but not so much for Turkish-style bowls.

The bowl and hose ports are removable. It did require me to use a hole poker to loosen them. I'm not sure why these need to be removable with the current configuration of the Pod. There are very few turning threads on these pieces, and I wonder how they will hold up over the lifespan of the Pod.

Durability and Construction Quality

This hookah has zero plastic parts, which is a major plus for me and one of the best

things about its construction. While I am concerned about the intake doors, the hookah does have a lifetime warranty. I feel the rating doesn't fully reflect how well this hookah is put together. It's made with high-quality parts and will withstand a high amount of abuse. Add in the extra parts that come with this hookah, and I have confidence in it standing the test of time because of the lifetime warranty.

4.) Ease of Use/Setup 10/10

This is one of the easiest hookahs to put together. Adding a small amount of water is what takes the longest. I found the setup to be intutive. Knowing how much water to add is clearly and easily seen in the instructions. While I am concerned with the integrity of the intake doors, they are easy to change. Seting up this hookah to achieve the desired smoke is easy.

5.) **Smokeability 8/10**

This hookah smokes well. I didn't dread or not look forward to reviewing it. Because of how easy it was to use, I found I was more willing to set up a hookah later at night since I knew it wouldn't take a lot of prep time to get everything going. With that said, this hookah does fall into the common problem I have with smaller hookahs. After about 45 minutes, the water was no longer cool. As a result, the water didn't cool the smoke at the same level as a larger hookah. "Clean Flavor" was one of the six things listed on the Purjfam Pod site. This warming of the water does negatively impact the flavor and how this hookah smokes. If I added a few pieces of ice, this helped with the warming, but it also altered the beginning of the sessions. This didn't prevent me from enjoying the experience as a whole. I still felt the sessions were good and would provide a good smoke when traveling. Needing ice to prevent that warming when traveling can be inconvenient, which is somewhat contradictory.

This hookah doesn't have a tray. I found an extremely easy mod to allow for a tray. It worked very well and allowed me to ash the coals. This hookah disassembles so easily. It's deconstructed and rinsed out almost as quickly as it was put together. Excellent for quick smokes, or when you're on the road and need to pack up quickly.

6.) Draw 9/10

It did not take me long to figure out what draw I liked best for the Pod. Even the static out of the box experience was nice. The draw is "**unlike anything else"** I have ever experienced in the hookah world. This touches on the six things listed on the website. It really is special in terms of how it smokes. Depending on what setup someone prefers depends on how different the draw is. The standard intake door has this "pop" effect due to the excellent vacuum seal this hookah has to offer. Which brings another one of the six things listed on the website. The

"**Perfect Seal**." With the 77 hole intake door and larger hole piece underneath, that "pop" was minimized but still present. I believe if I was blind folded and handed a hookah, I would know immeditaly that I was smoking a pod. At first I was worried that would be a bit off putting for some, but as I used this hookah more, I found it to be surprisingly pleasing. I knocked a point from the rating because it could be a bit confusing trying to figure out what configuration is needed to achieve a desired effect.

7.) **Flavor 7/10.**

While I do and did enjoy smoking this hookah, the flavor I get is a bit diminished and altered by the water getting warmer. The session starts out wonderfully. The first 30-45 minutes of the session have great flavor, but after that mark, I noticed the flavor would often fade. Not only would it fade, but the warming of the water would create the wrong textured smoke. I do tend to smoke warm, but having the smoke be warm because the water is not cool is different than having the smoke temperature be altered by coal management.

During my setup of numerous hookahs with the same bowl (moving the bowl from hookah to hookah), I was surprised to find that the Pod had the least flavor out of the majority of the hookahs; however, it did not finish last amongst the hookahs I had setup. Despite that, one of the six claims on the website was "Clean Flavor - Glass and aluminum construction with stainless steel hardware. Minimal exposure to the seal elements guarantee flavor purity." I was surprised by my experiment. Until I did a side by side comparison, I felt the flavor was normal. That will be discussed more in my closing statement and rating.

8.) **Cleaning 9.5/10**

This hookah was easy to clean. The parts take up a very minimal amount of counter space if I want to air dry them or if I rinse them out with warm water. Soap can be freely used as none of the parts are going to retain any residue. A small, thin brush cleans the bowl and hose port very well. I did find that I could get a decent amount of splash-back when cleaning the innermost chamber. When I did a deep clean and used normal dish soap, I did find it did not clean 100%. There was a very (and I mean very) slight smell from whatever I had smoked last. I would have had to really focus on it to pick up. I was not able to discern what I had smoked, but I knew this hookah had been used. However, it was so slight that I did not feel a full point needed to be taken off. I could rinse this hookah out with warm water and no soap, pack another bowl, and smoke it without the next session being affected by what I had smoked before. Something that is not always true for normal stick hookahs. I also did not feel the splash-back was something that should negatively impact the rating. This hookah's cleanup is easy, whether you are rinsing it out or doing a deep clean.

Closing Statements and Thoughts.

The average of all these ratings puts this hookah at 8.7/10. However, I feel this rating is a bit too low to express the overall experience. There are many smaller details not discussed in this review. Not only that, but some details seem more inconvenient on paper than they are in a real-life smoking experience (like the no-tray). There are nuances to smoking and the experience that aren't something that can be quantified.

Some things mentioned aren't a result of the Pod having a problem but rather my outlook on smaller hookahs in general. I firmly believe there's a minimal amount of water needed to cool the smoke that no smaller hookah can provide. This hookah performed very well despite that belief. While this hookah's delivery of flavor appeared low when set up next to numerous other hookahs, this isn't a typical everyday experience I'd find myself in. The flavor and smokeability of this hookah were good and reliable. Because the overall experience and product delivered a satisfactory experience, I want to bump this hookah's rating by 0.5 to account for the nuances not discussed or quantified in this review..

This is a small hookah that smokes like your at home hookah. I can absolutely RIP this hookah to no end. While I have my belief about amount of water required in hookahs, out of the travel hookahs I have smoked, it's the best. Add in how easy it is to setup and the overall construction, It stands to fight against many other big at home hookahs. It is an impressive device. I felt reviewing it only as a travel hookah would not be fair to the quality it delivers.

Final Rating

The overall rating of this hookah is a solid 9.2/10. In the American schooling system, this would be considered an "A" rating, and that feels right to me. It has some issues, but none of these are enough for me not to like this hookah. The smoking experience this hookah delivers isn't just one of these ratings but a collection of experiences. When put all together and accounting for the overall experience, an "A" is a fair and reasonable grade. Before I knew much about the Pod, I thought the price point seemed a bit high for what it was. Once I received this product, I quickly learned that thought was misinformed and incorrect. I like this hookah. It's unique, and I look forward to seeing the inevitable impact it has on the market. For such a new design, I am very impressed with this hookah. It is a new concept in the hookah world. The design is designed with intention and engineered in such a way. For what this hookah has to offer, the slight issues I had with the hookah are limited. I reviewed this hookah as "just another hookah," but it is certainly not your average hookah